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Dear Friend,

On June 30, President Bush signed into law three important pieces of legislation passed by the Democratic Congress that will have a significant impact on the 17th District and the entire nation.

Despite his early and vocal objections, the President signed the G.I. Bill for the 21st Century, landmark legislation that offers a new generation of American soldiers the chance to obtain a college degree and be a part of rebuilding our economy.

I am enormously proud to have supported this historic legislation, which is the first significant increase in post-service benefits for members of our armed services since the original G.I. Bill was enacted in 1944.

An extension of unemployment benefits also became law, an important part of our plan to revitalize the economy and support working families during a time of recession.

I supported providing an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to as many as 3.8 million Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

That money will help nearly 190,000 workers in Illinois make ends meet.

At my request, President Bush also signed legislation that will provide \$2.6 billion in federal aid for Midwest flood recovery.

Those of you affected by flooding are in my thoughts and prayers as the waters recede and you assess the damage.

I know that money alone cannot put your lives back together, but my hope is that with strong support from federal, state, and local agencies, flood-ravaged communities can rebuild quickly and thrive once again.

I will be working to ensure that this support is delivered to the communities that need it as soon as possible.

As always, feel free to contact me if you need any assistance.

Sincerely,

Phil Hare
Member of Congress

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veterans receive the
same educational
benefits as their
counterparts from the
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